

COMBINATIONS OF C6 CERAMIDE AND CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC AGENTS  
FOR INDUCING CELL DEATH AND USES THEREOF IN TREATING  
CANCER

5 Abstract of the Disclosure

10 This invention provides a method for increasing apoptosis  
in tumor cells and a method of decreasing a size of a  
tumor, said methods comprising contacting the tumor cells  
with: a) an effective amount of at least one antitumor  
chemotherapeutic agent and b) an effective amount of a  
ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, wherein the  
apoptosis induced by the combination of the antitumor  
chemotherapeutic agent and the ceramide is greater than  
15 the apoptosis induced by contact of the tumor cells with  
either the antitumor chemotherapeutic agent alone or the  
ceramide alone. This invention also provides a method of  
treating cancer in a subject which comprises a method  
according to either of the above-described methods. This  
20 invention provides a method for treating cancer in a  
subject comprising administering to the subject an  
effective amount of at least one antitumor chemo-  
therapeutic agent and an effective amount of at least one  
ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly. This invention  
25 provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least  
one antitumor chemotherapeutic agent in an amount  
effective to induce apoptosis of tumor cells and at least  
one ceramide in an amount effective to induce apoptosis  
of tumor cells and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30

35